



East Midlands Materials Society

A Local Society affiliated to the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held as a Hybrid Meeting on Wednesday 25th May 2022

Dave Evetts, the Honorary Secretary, opened the meeting and thanked all for attending. There were 10 people present.

1. Apologies.

Katy Voisey, Sophie Cazien-Cazuc, Csaba Sinca, Dave Weston, Nikolaos Kalfagiannis, Rebecca Sandala

2. Minutes of AGM 2021

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

4. President's Report 2021-2022

This is my third year in the role, and again, it has been another interesting year with us holding talks as either hybrid or virtual. Being the President of the East Midlands Materials Society is made very easy by the members of the committee and I would like to formally thank them for giving their time over the past year. This has allowed us to organise and deliver our programme of events.

Despite the difficulties with the ongoing pandemic in running the programme, we have delivered an interesting and relevant range of seminars from Recycling of Plastics to Materials for Anti-Microbial Protection to Materials for Sustainable Aerospace to name a few. I would like to formally thank the speakers for their time and effort in preparing and presenting the talks and being prepared to answer questions from audience. We also held a successful Young Persons' Lecture Competition local heat and hosted the regional final. We had an all-female local heat and regional final, which I think is a first and shows the wide reach of Materials Science and Engineering. Anna Tholen from Loughborough University made it to National Final and came in second to Lauren Eggleton. I am always amazed at the quality of all the talks from all the YPLC competitors and I would like to congratulate all this year's entrants and encourage anyone in audience to have a go next year. EMMS also co-sponsored the YPLC National Final, something we are proud to do.

This year we settled on a hybrid delivery mode (where possible) consisting of live in-person talks also accessible online and we will continue to do so next season for most of our talks. This allows us to reach people from all parts of the UK and beyond and we regularly have people attending online from places such as Europe, China, the USA etc.

Honestly, the society would cease to function without Dave Evetts as Honorary Secretary. Dave makes sure that EMMS runs smoothly as he has done for a long time. Dave has been especially generous this year by providing a substantial legacy fund to EMMS to allow us to support more students in terms of covering membership fees for the IoM3, conference attendance and increased prizes for the YPLC. Thank-you Dave for your ongoing support. We

really would not be able to do what we do without you. I would also like to thank Martin Tuffs and Justin Steele-Davies for on-going efforts over the past season in organising our events. As we transition more to normal activities such as physical attendance at conferences, I would encourage doctoral researchers to take advantage of the funding we can offer. We have money in the bank that we would like to put to good use to support students. I would just like to conclude by thanking again the EMMS committee, our speakers over the past season and all those that took time to attend the talks. I look forward to seeing many of you again next year, either in person or online.

5.Honorary Secretary's Report 2021-2022

I am pleased to report that we are returning to some level of normality. We have been able to have five physical meetings this season, including this one and our local round of the YPLC. The other three technical meetings, the regional round of the YPLC and our social event, have been on-line only.

All our physical meetings have been hybrid meetings i.e. in-person and on-line. I have had several compliments about how well these are run. I am aware that a lot of effort goes into this and would like to thank Simon and Justin for their fantastic efforts on our behalf. In my view, hybrid meetings achieve the best of both worlds, so I guess that the pandemic has hastened this development.

Our 2022-23 programme is still in development. We are considering having two virtual only meetings in the winter when travelling to venues is less enticing. It also gives us the opportunity to invite speakers from afar so they don't have to travel.

We always put special emphasis on supporting younger members. We sponsor students to become members of the Institute, part-fund students to attend conferences and pay for travel to meetings away from their place of education. However, student participation has still been difficult this season and as a result we have only sponsored two new student members of IoM3, and not paid travel grants to conferences. We hope to be able to support students more next season. As mentioned earlier, we had our local heat of the YPLC as a hybrid meeting. We had three contestants but what we lacked in numbers was more than made up by the quality of the talks. Anna Tholen of Loughborough University. She also won the regional final, progressed to the National Final held physically this year on 4th May and was placed second! Congratulations Anna. What a fantastic result. We again co-sponsored the National YPLC final. So, students and younger members, do give some consideration to entering in 2023. Details will be posted later in the year.

From a personal point-of-view, I am a strong supporter of the competition. It really does help to develop the all-important skill of presentation. I was speaking recently to a previous contestant who said "Prior to entering the competition, I was very nervous about making presentations. However, since entering the competition I am now much more confident and actually look forward to presenting my technical work to my peers and higher levels of management in the organisation"

So, there are lots of opportunities for younger members within EMMS. Look out for further publicity.

I would like to thank the officers and members of the Committee for their help in the running of the Society. Many of them have a "day job", and other roles in IOM3 but always seem to find time to help run the Society. Also, I would like to thank our speakers for providing such interesting talks and everyone who has attended the events. I would particularly like to thank Simon Hogg, for all his efforts as President as well as his efforts in running the meetings, along with Justin Steele-Davies and to Martin Tuffs for looking after our programme of events. Last year I was particularly pleased to be able to present Martin with an Outstanding Service Award from IOM3 for his long-term commitment to EMMS.

I would also like to mention one committee member in particular. Gary Critchlow is standing down this year after 18 years on the committee. Gary has done so much for EMMS, including being President in 2009-12. He has always taken an active part in all aspects of our activities,

arranging venues, proposing talks, attending most meetings and encouraging students to get involved. And this is on top of all his University activities. There can be few people with more contacts as Gary. He can always be relied upon to propose speakers on virtually any topic. We will miss you on the committee, Gary, but I know that you will continue to attend meetings when you can, and offer advice and contacts when asked.

In conclusion, I am proud of the fact that EMMS has weathered the Coronavirus storm and we have come out stronger than ever. Our hybrid meeting format has proved hugely successful, but I still look forward to our physical meetings. It is just lovely to be able to talk face to face with people!

6. Events Secretary's Report 2021-2022

This season we have continued up the learning curve of the digital world on many fronts, not just the use of online meetings, and I will say a few words on this in my report.

Where we have had physical events, we have also broadcast these live with Teams. This produces a marked increase in workload, though from members comments have been very positive – the online option caters for those who cannot attend physically or have moved away from the area and want to keep in touch. As might be expected, physical attendance numbers are lower than previous seasons though these are more than made up for by the numbers joining online.

Average in person attendance 23, average online attendance 31.

The need to manage online meetings brought in the use of Eventbrite, the online platform through which access to the Teams meeting can be gained. We encourage everyone who wants to attend our meetings to register for them with Eventbrite, you can choose between options of attending on line or in person. Using Eventbrite in this way helps predict the physical attendance, useful for room choice, catering, etc., but also in future we may more use of the technology in generating things like the attendance list. You can also follow us on Eventbrite and get notifications when Events are added.

Providing meetings online has also meant that we can record the talks and provide these after the event. Members continually asked for this over the years so I am pleased we have risen to the challenge. We now have our own YouTube channel (thanks to Justin) and you can follow us there as well. And this brings me on to the EMMS website within the IOM3 community space <https://www.iom3.org/group/east-midlands-materials-society-emms.html>

The new IOM3 site started its roll out in October 2020 and is now up and running, I have had editing permissions for the EMMS website since March this year. Details of our programme of events are posted on the website, which will be updated with any late changes and will signpost Eventbrite. An improvement of the new website is that details of past events can be seen and from which links to the recordings on YouTube are available. Another improvement is the way the website manages alerts for events. Those who have selected EMMS in their preferences on the IOM3 website will receive alerts by email from the IOM3 the moment that I select 'send alert to members' for any particular meeting – I try to do this between one and two weeks prior to each event. Currently an impressive 1,266 people have chosen EMMS in their preferences - thanks to everyone who has done this. Incidentally, if you are not a member of IOM3 you can

use the 'join online' on the membership section to register to the IOM3 website where you can also set preferences to get alerts.

Though we will continue up the learning curve of the digital world, we will also continue to arrange physical meetings, throughout the region, which some members really appreciate.

Now for some thank-yous. Firstly, my own thanks to Gary who seems to have been around forever and provided a long list of first-rate speakers over almost two decades. You'll be missed. Also, thanks to Simon, Justin and Katy who have arranged things on Eventbrite and Teams, and all that entails, but also for covering for me during my illness over the course of last year. Thanks also to Dave in the latter regard and for his overseeing skills in general. Also, thanks to the all the committee for providing venues, speakers, refreshments and all that entails over the year.

7. Treasurer's Report 2021-2022

Simon and Tomasz have jointly continued in the Treasurer's role. This will continue into 2022-23. Expenditure in the last 12 months has been low. This is partly because we have not had our usual numbers of physical meetings this season and have only been able to sponsor two students to IoM3 membership, and not paid any travel expenses.

This year's accounts show an item, "conference grant", which is a consolidation of what have previously been two separate accounts (i.e. the conference money was in a separate account). There is also an item "Dave Evetts Legacy Fund", which is money donated by Dave Evetts to support students, with extra prize money for the local YPLC round and also to give extra money to supplement travel grants. The accounts are available on our website.

8. Election of Officers and Committee 2022-2023

The President, **Simon Hogg**, agreed to continue in his role.

Tomasz Zalewski agreed to continue as the Treasurer, a role he will share with Simon Hogg for the time being.

Dave Evetts agreed to continue as Honorary Secretary.

Martin Tuffs agreed to continue in his role as Events Secretary, as well as continuing as website editor.

Tomasz Zalewski agreed to continue as the Younger Members Representative.

Gary Critchlow has resigned from the committee after many years. He was thanked for his significant contribution to EMMS (also see above).

All other committee members agreed to continue in their roles.

So, as well as the above, the committee members, are now:

Mike Clinch, Keith Harrison, Sophie Cazien-Cazuc, John Yarnall, Csaba Sinka, Rebecca Sandala, Dave Weston, Justin Steele-Davies, Nikolaos Kalfagiannis, Kate Fox, Katy Voisey.

Nikolaos Kalfagiannis has yet to confirm his continued membership of the committee.

9. Any other Business

None.

Dave Evetts

Honorary Secretary – EMMS

18th June 2022